

# Ask Me Not Why

English Words by  
Charles Jefferys

as sung in the Opera  
La Figlia del Reggimento  
by Gaetano Donizetti and  
part of "The Songs of Jenny Lind" Series

Music by Donizetti  
Arranged by Charles Glover

**Andante con moto**

The piano introduction is written for a grand piano in E-flat major, 4/4 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes. The piece includes dynamic markings for *cresc.* (crescendo), *p* (piano), and *rall.* (rallentando) towards the end of the introduction.

The vocal and piano accompaniment section begins at measure 9. The vocal line is in E-flat major, 4/4 time, with a tempo marking of *a tempo*. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simpler bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are provided for two versions of the song.

9 *a tempo*

1. Ask me not why my heart with fond e - mo - tion Beats for the  
2. Chide me no more, were I de - void of feel - ing Would my in -

12  $B\flat 7(\text{omit } 5)$   $E\flat$   $B\flat 7/F$   $B\flat 7(\text{omit } 5)$

brave com-pan-ions of my youth? Had they not tend-ed me with love's de-  
 grat - i - tude not wake thy fears? Worth-less would be this mo-ment's fond re-

15  $E\flat$   $B\flat 7(\text{omit } 5)$

vo - tion I had not lived, a - las, \_\_\_\_\_ to prove my \_\_\_\_\_  
 veal - ing, If I could cast a - side \_\_\_\_\_ the ties of long, long

17  $E\flat$   $B\flat 7$   $E\flat$   $B\flat 7$

truth: A help-less babe up - on the field I  
 years. Thou hast my love; thine is a moth-er's

19

lay, \_\_\_\_\_ And but for them my life had passed a - way. \_\_\_\_\_ My  
claim, \_\_\_\_\_ To them for - get \_\_\_\_\_ not that thou ow'st the name, \_\_\_\_\_ My

19

E $\flat$ /B $\flat$  G7 C $\flat$

22

life \_\_\_\_\_ had passed \_\_\_\_\_ a - way \_\_\_\_\_ Ere I for - get, then all their lov - ing  
moth - er, my moth - er dear, Ere I can cease to \_\_\_\_\_ think of all their

22

B $\flat$ /F F7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7/F B $\flat$ 7(omit 5)

25

kind - ness Bring o'er my heart \_\_\_\_\_ o - bliv - ion of the past; But when you  
kind - ness Bring etc. \_\_\_\_\_

25

E $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7(omit 5) E $\flat$

28  $B\flat 7/F$   $B\flat 7(\text{omit } 5)$   $E\flat$   $B\flat 7(\text{omit } 5)$  a piacere

win for me that fa-tal blind-ness, In mer-cy let that mo-ment, that mo-ment, be my

31  $E\flat$

last.

31 *cresc.*

34 *dim.*